

HOUSE RESOLUTION 200
By Langster

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mt. Nebo Baptist Church
of Nashville.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those exemplary religious institutions that serve as lighthouse churches in their respective communities by ministering to those souls in need of direction, hope and solace; and

WHEREAS, Mt. Nebo Baptist Church of Nashville is one such praiseworthy church with a vital ministry; and

WHEREAS, Mt. Nebo has always endeavored to be a sanctuary where people can find the love of God through salvation in Jesus Christ and where they can grow in that love through worship, Bible study, witnessing, training and fellowship; and

WHEREAS, this exemplary church is a congregation that shares their individual and collective burdens and joys and a congregation that grows, learns and prays together in Christian love; and

WHEREAS, the illustrious history of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church began with the founding of the church in 1871; and

WHEREAS, the congregation originally met in a schoolhouse at the corner of 25th Avenue, North and Clifton Road, where Mt. Nebo Church stands today; and

WHEREAS, the church's first pastor, the Reverend Pharaoh Benson, was ordained by the Spruce Street Baptist Church under the pastorate of the Reverend Nelson Merry; and

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WHEREAS, Reverend Benson served Mt. Nebo for 12 productive years and was known as an evangelist because of the tremendous growth of the church under his spiritual guidance; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, Mt. Nebo Baptist Church's first modern structure was built under the leadership of the Reverend A. G. Thomas, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, due to God's blessings, the congregation increased and soon outgrew the facility, and under the leadership of the Reverend Dr. Gill H. Gordon, Sr., the present church was erected adjacent to the old facility in 1976; and

WHEREAS, the old church was renovated and dedicated to the church's founder, the Reverend Pharaoh Benson; and

WHEREAS, in August 1990, the old facility was demolished and the present educational complex was erected; and

WHEREAS, dubbed the Dr. Gill H. Gordon Educational Complex, it was dedicated to God for Christian education and worship on January 27, 1991; and

WHEREAS, following Dr. Gordon's retirement on April 3, 1993, he was voted Pastor Emeritus; he continues to be a faithful member of the congregation; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 1993, the Reverend Theodore H. Bryson was elected Pastor and was installed on June 20 of that year; and

WHEREAS, under Reverend Bryson's inspired leadership, Mt. Nebo continues to be a bright and beautiful light in the community and is prayerfully seeking to increase programs and outreach ministries; and

WHEREAS, under Reverend Bryson's pastorate, the Youth ministry has been strengthened; monthly ministry with the residents of Windsor House Nursing Home has been initiated; Transportation ministry to the Family Resource Center at Pearl Cohn High School has been initiated; Children's Church, a Big Brother/Big Sister program for new members, and a Single's ministry have been started; a Food Certificate program has been initiated through a

local grocery chain for needy individuals and their families; and an Adopt-a-Street program and regular community clean-up efforts have been initiated; and

WHEREAS, Mt. Nebo Baptist Church has also started a popular after-school program called the Shepherd's House, which meets once a week to help children with homework and to build their self-esteem and character; and

WHEREAS, the congregation of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church has truly distinguished itself as devout Christians and dedicated public servants; and

WHEREAS, in December 1996, Mt. Nebo donated over 50 bags of groceries in support of LeSea Global Feed-the-Hungry and Love-in-a-Bag ministries, and on January 1, 1997, the church hosted the Emancipation Proclamation Breakfast sponsored by the Interdenominational Ministers' Fellowship; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That the Reverend Theodore H. Bryson and the good people of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church are hereby honored and commended for their meritorious public service to the greater Nashville community as devout Christians who compassionately minister to the needs of the economically and spiritually impoverished and who are always willing to take a stand for God's way.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we congratulate Reverend Bryson and the Mt. Nebo Baptist Church congregation upon their 127th Anniversary of Christian love and fellowship, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.